

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

FEA-01 OES-06 /106 W

----- 020898

R 070900Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6128

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, ECIN, ECON, OCON, OTRA, SN

SUBJECT: ASIAN PACIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
(APCAC) - JAKARTA CONFERENCE

REF: (A) TOKYO 12999 (B) STATE 209358

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1. SINGAPORE' AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (ABC) IS DESIRIOUS OF HAVING SENIOR WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING JAKARTA APCAC MEETING (OCTOBER 15 -18). I ENDORSE THIS POSITION AND HOPE THAT SOMEONE LIKE LESSEDMOND, FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES OF SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS AS WELL AS CURRENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS, CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DEPARTMENT. (COMMERCE AND EXIM HAVE BEEN INVITED AND HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL BE REPRESENTED.) WHILE I UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REF B AND ADMIT THAT APCAC MAY NOT BE IMPORTANT FORUM FOR ADVANCING USG ECONOMIC INTERESTS (HONG KONG 2832), FACT REMAINS THAT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN SINGAPORE BELIEVE THEIR ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE IN SUBSTANTIAL MANNER TO PROMOTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN SEA.

2. SINGAPORE'S AMERICAN BUSINESS PRESENCE IS BY NO MEANS TYPICAL OF THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES. MOST U.S. FIRMS HERE ARE LARGE, INCLUDING MANY TCNS, AND ARE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING OIL REFINING. OTHERS ARE INVOLVED IN REGIONAL SALES, SERVICE AND DISTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES. IN BOTH INSTANCES THEIR COURSCING CHANNELS ARE WELL-ESTABLISHED AND REQUESTS FOR USG ASSISTANCE ARE INFREQUENT EXCEPT FOR BRIEFINGS AND OCCASIONALLY FOR INTERCESSION WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING THAT RECENT STATE-COMMERCE TEAM EVALUATING COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS (STATE 194260) WAS TOLD BY LOCAL EXPATRIATE AMERICANS DURING RECENT VISIT THAT USG COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS (ADS, TOPS, WTDRS, TRADE CENTERS) WERE LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THEIR NEEDS. MOREOVER, AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN CITED RECENT ACTIONS BY CONGRESS (TAX LEGISLATION, OIL COMPANY DIVESTITURE THREATS, ETC.) AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONTINUATION OF VIETNAM EMBARGO, IRS RULING REGARDING TREATMENT OF OIL ROYALTIES, ETC.) AS HINDERING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN REGION, TO DETRIMENT OF BOTH US AND REGIONAL COUNTRIES. ABSENCE FROM APCAC MEETING OF APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION COULD THEREFORE BE INTERPRETED AS INDICATION OF, AT BEST, BENIGN NEGLECT ON PART OF USG.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSES TO KNOW THAT ABC WILL PROPOSE AT JAKARTA MEETING THAT HENCEFORTH THERE BE ONLY ONE REPEAT ONE APCAC GENERAL MEETING ANNUALLY AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY TWO OR THREE MEETINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIMITED TO OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENTS. IF ADOPTED, THIS PROPOSAL COULD EASE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGETARY AND WORKLOAD PROBLEMS (REF B) IN FUTURE.
HOLDRIDGE

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